(vii) Medical and health tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London.

**Development of Phoolbaghe, Gwalior**

†1598. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate proposals regarding development of Phoolbagh, Gwalior, upgradation and development of Hotel Tansen and Sulabh complex, Orchha have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under Circuit Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals; and

(c) by when, these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A project for integrated development of Gwalior-Orchha-Khajuraho circuit has been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism for central financial assistance of Rs. 461.09 lakh during 2005-06 , which includes the following components:

| SI. No | Name of the component | Estimated expenditure (Rs. in lakh) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Development of Phool BaghArea, Gwalior | 221.28 |
| 2. | Upgradation of Tourist village, Khajuraho | 74.03 |
| 3. | Facilitation centre at Khajuraho | 67.42 |
| 4. | Watersports complex at Benisagar Dam, Khajuraho | 29.76 |
| 5. | Sulabh complex Orchha | 23.32 |
| 6. | Sulabh complex Khajuraho | 23.32 |
| | Total | 439.13 |
| 7. | Add. 5% Architect fee | 21.96 |
| | Total cost of the project: | 461.09 |

**Development of Beaches**

1599. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andaman and Nicobar beach is ranked as one of the top ten beaches in the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what are the proposals and plans to project the Andaman and Nicobar as a major tourist attraction in the country; and

(c) what are the plans to develop and promote other beaches in the country as tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) According to a media report, a German Tour Operator, Mr. De Ruiter had selected the world's best ten beaches. Top ranking was given to Andaman Islands followed by Lakshadweep islands, the Maldives and Seychelles. His assessment has been based on verifiable factors such as sand quality, depth of water etc. TIME Magazine had earlier declared beach No. 7, Havelock Island in Andamans as the "Best Beach in Asia".

(b) Publicity support has been given to project the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as high value tourist destination.

(c) The Department of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UTs for development of tourism projects including development of beaches which are prioritized in consultation with them, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

**Protection of historical buildings**

†1600. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM **AND** CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take care of the protected historical buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and names of such buildings, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are 3667 centrally protected monuments/ sites which have been declared as of national importance under the provision of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The list of centrally protected monuments State-wise is enclosed as statement (see below). The Archaeological Survey of India looks after the maintenance, conservation, preservation and development of environment of these centrally protected monuments in accordance with archaeological norms.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.